

## **BLUC Steering Committee May 5, 2005 Minutes**

Chairman Averill called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM. Minutes of the April 28, 2005 meeting were read. Approval of the minutes was tabled for clarification of Tony Sagami's statements regarding causes to remove Doug Averill as chairman of the Steering Committee. Mr. Sagami was not willing to clarify those statements at this time.

### **Old Business:**

Buz Meyer informed the committee that BLUAC had asked Tony Sagami to return to the Steering Committee and place his concerns in writing before the committee. BLUAC requested a report from the Steering Committee on the issue within two weeks of the April 28, 2005 meeting. Meyer explained that the proper procedure was to elect a special master to conduct an election of a sub-committee to undertake the issues Sagami has raised. The committee should be made up of 5 members who would interview the parties involved and supply a written report to the Steering Committee for further consideration. Buz Meyer made the motion that a special master be elected and that a committee of five persons be elected to serve as a committee to interview any parties pertinent to the charges and report in writing to the Steering Committee. Craig Wagner seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Elna Darrow nominated Buz Meyer; Carol Venable nominated Clarice Ryan to serve as special master. Pat Wagner made the motion that the election be made with a show of hands. Denise Lang seconded the motion. Call for the vote showed 7 hands for Buz Meyer, 9 hands for Clarice Ryan. Clarice Ryan then opened the floor for nominations for five committee members. Those nominated were Buz Meyer, Craig Wagner, Bob Kimball, Katie Brown, Sue Hanson, John Bourquin, Ann Guerrant, George Darrow and Bob Hoene. Special Master Ryan requested all members write their five choices of the nominated on a piece of paper. She asked Pat Wagner and Carol Venable to tally the results. From the written ballots, Buz Meyer, Craig Wagner, Sue Hanson, Bob Hoene and John Bourquin were selected as the committee. The committee will convene after the Steering Committee is adjourned.

Doug Averill asked Tony Sagami if he would clarify whether the charges he was making were directed at him personally or at the committee. Sagami, again refused to answer.

Chairman Averill asked for a report of the Bigfork Survey count. Sue Hanson reported that Shelley Gonzales, Phil Hanson (BLUAC member), Sue Hanson and Beverly Fisher met at the Post Office on Saturday, April 30, 2005, and counted all the surveys held in the vault. Total surveys returned marked undeliverable were 459. Total surveys returned completed were 1,489, a 25.8% return of the 6,226 surveys mailed.

Paul Guerrant reported on the software purchased to compile survey results. His opinion of this software compared to software he has used in the past was this software is similar but not as easy to use. He also noted that our uses would only use a fraction of the capabilities of the purchased software. He will set up an Excel spreadsheet and work it side-by-side with the SBSS software and report on the result. Survey Tabulation committee Paul Guerrant, Elna Darrow and Pat Wagner will get together and try to work out some of the mechanics of tabulating and report back to the Steering Committee. Buz Meyer asked if an Excel master-sheet would cut down the time needed for one person to enter the data on the new software. It was also suggested that the committee hire the computer work done, keeping in mind the safeguards of accuracy and accountability. Denise Lang suggested speaking with the professor from U of M for suggestions.

### **New Business:**

Clarice Ryan gave a presentation on the hazards of conservation easements. She stated that over 29,000 acres in Flathead County were tied up in conservation easements with the three major conservation entities, Montana Land Reliance, Flathead Land Trust and the Nature Conservancy. She explained that many elderly do not consider the affect a conservation easement would have on their children and future

heirs. She stated that a conservation easement is, in effect, giving another entity your property rights and eventually, the property is taken over by the entity. Clarice also handed out an informational sheet regarding H.R. 8, a bill that passed the U.S. House of Representatives to kill the Death Tax. She urged everyone to contact Senators Burns and Baucus to support passage of the bill.

Doug Averill stated that he takes personal offense to the allegations of Tony Sagami. He feels the accusations are not clear as to whether they are intended for him personally or the Steering Committee as a whole. He presented copies of his philosophy and a list of 45 Community Charitable Events he will be hosting in the next 5 months.

Elna Darrow moved the meeting be adjourned. Pat Wagner seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 1:20 PM.

Sue Hanson, Secretary